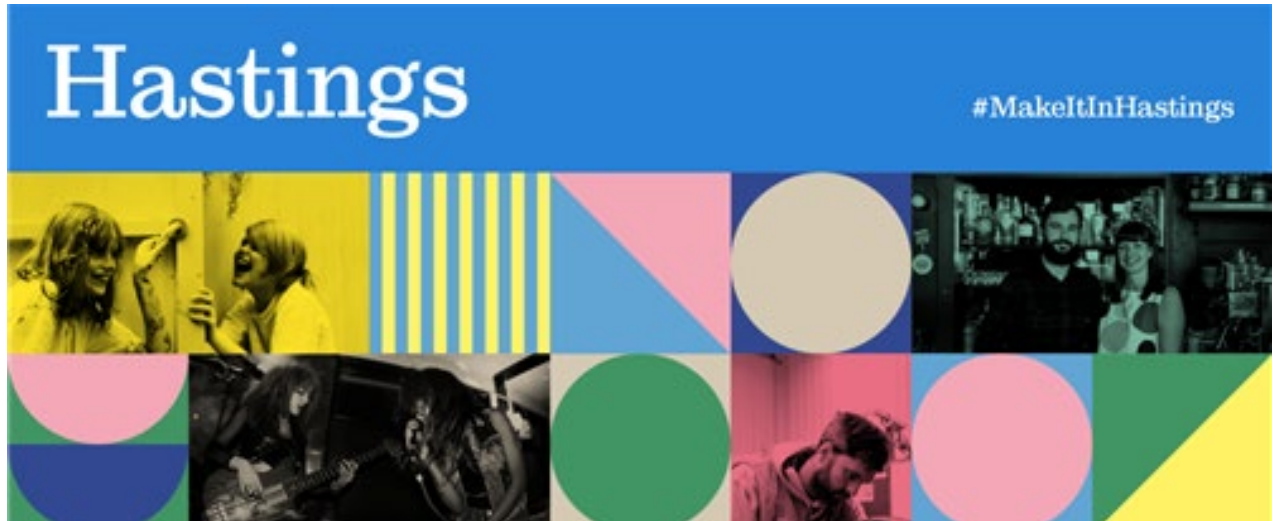


**Report Title: Programme progress update to Hastings Town Deal Board**

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Report by: Towns Fund Programme Team**



## **1. Project Re-allocation of funds**

Development of 1-7 Wellington Place (Sports Direct building) project has officially been withdrawn from the Town Deal programme.

Following discussion with Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and HBC's Section 151 officer, the following has been agreed to reinvest and recycle the funds in Hastings as quickly as possible:

- A minimum of £400,000 of the funds to be used for a call for new capital projects in Hastings Town Centre which are able to be developed and delivered as quickly as possible
- Up to £600,000 of the funds will be retained for existing projects for general uplift considerations once their business cases have been approved. This will be considered further in the summer of 2022.
- The application process for new projects was launched on Wednesday 2 March. This is to enable us to select the project(s) as quickly as possible and still comply with all the criteria and timelines set by the government. We are hopeful the process will provide a list of pipeline projects in Hastings Town centre for future regeneration activities.
- The selection of new projects will be as rigorous as the project prioritisation process carried out previously to identify those for inclusion in the Town Investment Plan. Projects are expected to have match funding, appropriate levels of benefits and outputs and produce a business case following initial approval.
- There is a considerable level of investment interest in the town centre and we hope this relatively small amount of Town Fund monies on offer for new capital projects will maintain that momentum.

## 2. General project updates

- An extension has been given for submitting summary documents to DLUHC. The original deadline for this was June 2022, but it has now been extended into September 2022.
- Four projects have asked for the 5% drawdown from their funds. They are Priory Street car park/ESK, Hastings Castle, East Sussex College and East Sussex County Council/HBC Public Realm and Green Connections. The offer remains open to other projects.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> March, DLUHC announced the return of the Towns Fund Delivery Partner to support all 101 Towns Fund places to July 2022. Rebecca Collings will be re-joining as Hastings' Town Coordinator.
- Freedom Works are to sign a lease on the old Debenhams building later this month – taking up to 3 floors of the building.



Image of inside the building pre-work being done.



Outside of Debenhams building.

- Churchfield Business Centre is due to 'top out' in May and construction has commenced.



Churchfield construction site, February 2022

- Three HBC projects have appointed consultants to develop their proposals to RIBA 1 to 2.
- Public Realm Green Connections Project – design consultant has also been appointed. Funding of the Garden Town Team approved by the Programme Team totalling £45k over three years. This will bring significant expertise to the development of the proposals.
- Three project ‘submission’ documents have been approved by DLUHC – funds should start flowing in for the approved projects (Churchfield; Freedom Works and Priory Meadow (Phase 1) + the lift for the Source Park.
- Planning Performance Agreements – a pre planning PPA has been drafted and is being circulated to projects for take up if required. The Programme Team is funding this initial phase to enable the development of robust business cases.
- Stuart Mitchell is leaving so will no longer be a member of the Board. New representation is to be agreed. Justin Thomas and Natasha Hamilton are the new project contacts for the moment. We would like to thank Stuart for his contributions to the Town and the Board.

### 3. Project progress by theme / project

Project (programme) theme	Project Title	Fast-track	Business case status
Enterprise & Employment infrastructure	Hastings co-working, flexible office, community space	Yes	SUBMITTED: 24/09/2021 APPROVED: 22/11/2021
	Churchfields (fast-track)	Yes	SUBMITTED: 27/09/2021 APPROVED: 22/11/2021
	Enterprise Space, Ponswood	Yes	SUBMITTED 26/11/2021 – project subject to further clarification.
Green Low Carbon Skills and Economy	Green construction, energy, and vehicle training centre	No	Due for submission: TBC
	Broadening Futures Together	Yes	<b>SUBMITTED:17/01/2021</b> Approval: pending

Hastings Castle World Heritage Destination	Hastings Castle	No	Due for submission: 30/06/2022
Town to Sea Creative Quarter (Hastings Commons)	OB Creative Digital Hub	No	Due for submission: 14/04/2022
	Cambridge Rd (Eagle Hse)	No	Due for submission: 14/04/2022
	12 Claremont	No	Due for submission: 14/04/2022
Town Centre Core	Priory Street/ESK (Town Centre Core Project 2)	No	Due for submission: 14/07/2022
	Repurposing Priory Meadow (Town Centre Core Project 1b)	No	Due for submission: 30/06/2022
	New Look Fast Track (Town Centre Project 1a)	Yes	SUBMITTED: 07/10/2021 APPROVED:14/01/2022
Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections	Public Realm & Green connections	No	Due for submission: 14/07/2022
Town Living	Town Living	No	Due for submission: 14/07/2022
Accelerator Project extension	The Courtyard (the Source) installation of lift	Yes	N/A

#### **4. Communications and engagement**

- A new communications and engagement officer is now in post – Ruby Crowhurst
- Meetings with project leads have been instigated, aiming to build a communications plans for each project. The next general project lead meeting will also focus on communications and engagement.
- A shared Microsoft Teams space for project leads has been created which includes important documents and guidance, including local strategies, branding guidance, and business case support.
- CitizenLab is being developed as an online engagement tool for all Town Deal projects. A usage strategy is being created, and we aim to have an example on the site soon to show how it would work.
- The Source Park was featured in a BBC programme on 23 February including information about young people’s mental health and opportunities in the area.
- The Programme Team, with project leads are planning to host in person showcase events for the programme on w/c 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022. These are currently being discussed and the team will update when we have more concrete details.